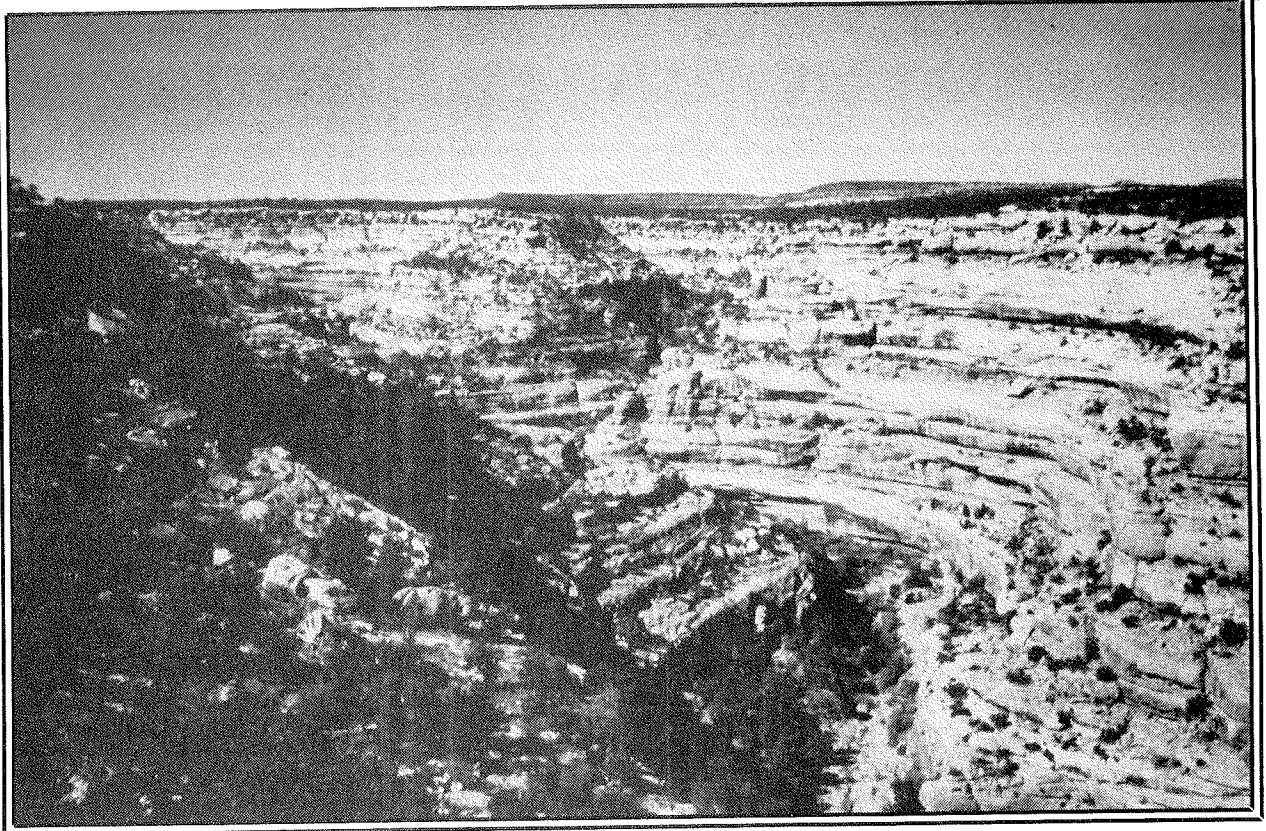


Road Canyon WSA









ROAD CANYON WSA

Road Canyon WSA Proposal UT-060-201

T. 38 S.

T. 39 S.

T. 40 S.

-  RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS
-  NONE RECOMMENDED FOR NON-WILDERNESS
-  NONE LAND OUTSIDE WSA RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS
-  NONE SPLIT ESTATE LAND WITHIN WSA BOUNDARY
-  STATE LAND WITHIN WSA BOUNDARY
-  NONE PRIVATE LAND WITHIN WSA BOUNDARY

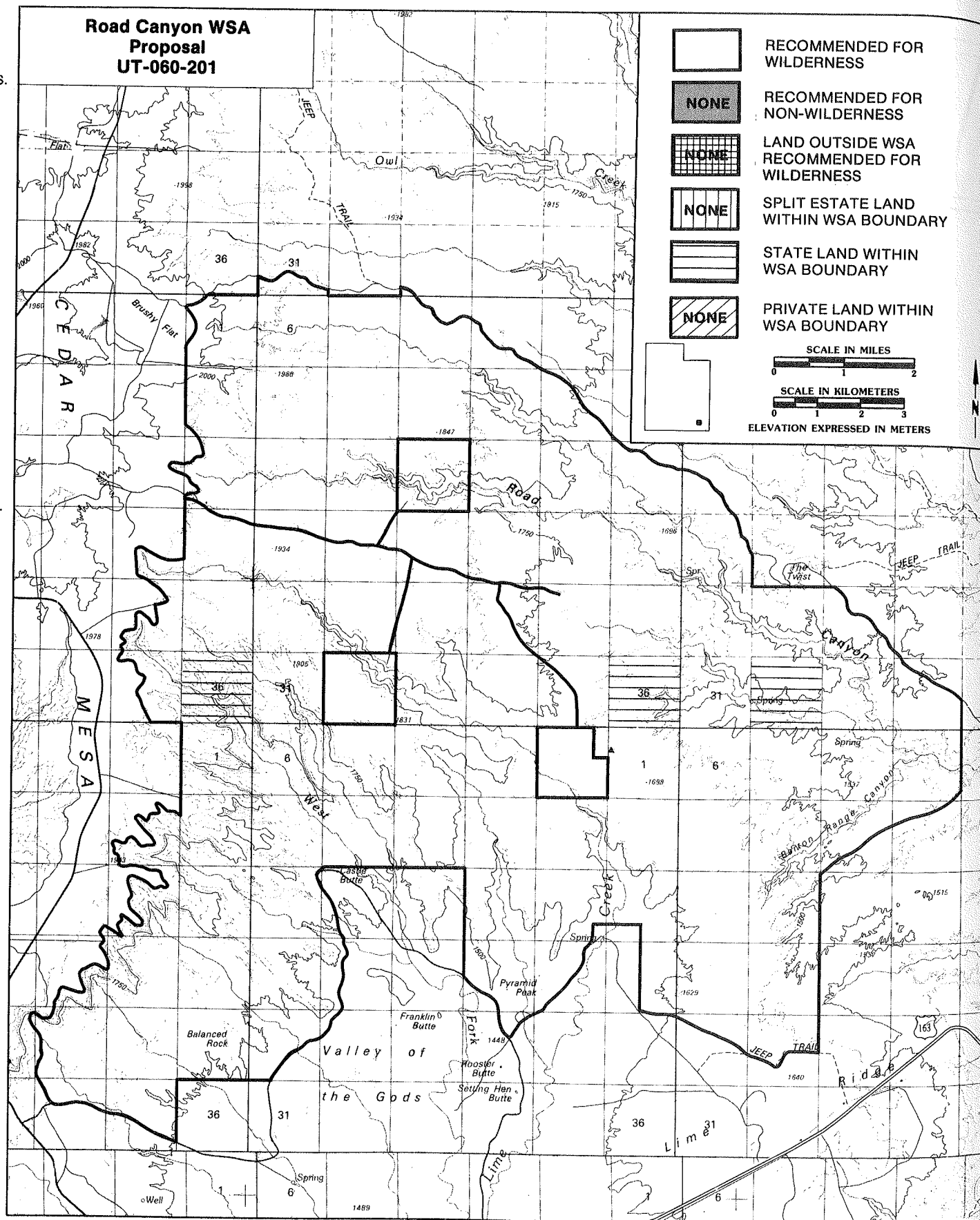
SCALE IN MILES



SCALE IN KILOMETERS



ELEVATION EXPRESSED IN METERS



October 1991

R. 19 E.

R. 20 E.

ROAD CANYON WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

1. THE STUDY AREA: 52,420 acres

The Road Canyon Wilderness Study Area (WSA) (UT-060-201) is in San Juan County, about 10 miles north of Mexican Hat, Utah. The study area is an irregularly shaped unit, 9 miles from north to south and 10 miles from east to west at the widest point. Most of the boundaries of the WSA are along roads and State lands except on the southwest, where the boundary is along the top of a cliff. About 14 miles of the WSA boundary follows unpaved roads and jeep trails. Seven miles of road that penetrate the central part of the WSA from the west are cherry-stemmed, that is, excluded from the study area along with three State sections to which these roads lead (see Map).

The WSA contains 52,420 acres of public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Three sections (1,920 acres) of State land are inheld within the WSA and are within the area recommended as wilderness within the WSA (see Table 1). The Fish Creek Canyon WSA (UT-060-204) is north of this WSA, on the opposite side of a county road.

The WSA is in the Canyonlands Section of the Colorado Plateau Physiographic Province, and is in the southeastern part of the Grand Gulch Plateau. Three canyons, including Road Canyon, cut through the unit. Steep canyon walls and knobs, pinnacles, arches, and alcoves characterize the WSA. There are no perennial streams in the WSA.

TABLE 1
LAND STATUS AND ACREAGE SUMMARY IN THE STUDY AREA*

WITHIN THE WSA	ACRES
BLM (surface and subsurface)	52,420
Split-Estate (BLM surface only)	0
In-holdings (State, Private)	1,920
Total	54,820
WITHIN THE RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS BOUNDARY	
BLM (within the WSA)	52,420
BLM (outside the WSA)	0
Split-Estate (within the WSA)	0
Split-Estate (outside the WSA)	0
Total BLM land recommended for wilderness	52,420
In-holdings (State, private)	1,920
WITHIN THE AREA NOT RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS	
BLM	0
Split-Estate	0
Total BLM land not recommended for wilderness	0
In-holdings (State, Private)	0

Source: BLM File Data

* The Appendix is a detailed table of in-holdings included within the portion of the WSA recommended for designation.

ROAD CANYON WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

Elevations range from 4,700 feet in the southeast to 6,500 feet in the northeast. Desert shrubs and pinyon-juniper are the predominant vegetative types. The climate is predominantly arid, with hot summers and cool to cold winters.

The WSA was studied under Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and was included in the Utah BLM Statewide Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) finalized in November 1990. Four alternatives were analyzed in the EIS: an all wilderness alternative, which is the recommendation in this report; a no wilderness (no action) alternative; a large partial wilderness alternative where 45,720 acres would be designated as wilderness and 6,700 acres would be released for uses other than wilderness; and a small partial wilderness alternative where 23,220 acres would be designated as wilderness and 31,200 acres would be released for uses other than wilderness.

Subsequent to publication of the Utah BLM Statewide Wilderness Final EIS, the Utah State Director approved the San Juan Resource Area Resource Management Plan (RMP). The plan included all of the Road Canyon WSA in the Cedar Mesa Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) to protect cultural resources, scenic values, and natural values associated with primitive recreation. Special management requirements now in effect within approximately two-thirds of the WSA in the Cedar Mesa ACEC, which is classified as 'primitive' under the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) classification system (ROS-P Class), include: mineral leasing with stipulations to prevent surface occupancy (Category 3); closure to disposal of mineral materials; exclusion from private and commercial use of woodland products, except for on-site collection of dead wood for campfires; closure to off-highway vehicle (OHV) use; management to limit recreation use if cultural resources are being damaged; management to meet Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class I objectives; exclusion from surface disturbance by mechanized or motorized equipment.

Special management requirements now in effect within the remaining one-third of the WSA include: special conditions to

protect cultural and scenic resources and primitive recreation opportunities from mineral exploration and production activities; limitation of OHV use to designated roads and trails; private and commercial use of woodland products only in designated areas, except that on-site collection of dead fuelwood for campfires would be allowed throughout the area.

2. RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE:

- 52,420 acres
(recommended for wilderness)
- 0 acres
(not recommended for wilderness)

The recommendation for this WSA is to designate the entire area, 52,420 acres, as wilderness. This is the environmentally preferable alternative as it would result in the least change from the natural environment over the long term. The recommendation will further apply to any additional in-holding acreage acquired through purchase or exchange with willing owners. The Appendix lists all in-holdings and provides additional information on acquisition.

Overall, the WSA is in a natural condition. About 87 percent has outstanding opportunities for solitude and 44 percent has outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Although dirt roads to three State sections in the WSA limit opportunities for primitive recreation, the overall wilderness qualities of rolling plateaus and deep, winding canyons are significant. Erosional landforms are of high interest. There is a high density of Anasazi Indian ruins in the WSA.

All of the area recommended for wilderness designation is in the Cedar Mesa ACEC where the restrictions on OHV use, mineral and energy exploration and production, harvest of woodland products, and surface disturbing activities would continue to be administratively applied if the area is released from wilderness consideration and protection of wilderness characteristics is not a management objective.

Limited exploration for oil and gas has resulted in no discoveries and the potential for any mineral development is considered to be low. Some firewood

ROAD CANYON WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

cutting occurs in the vicinity of the WSA, but this use can be fully met outside the WSA. Consequently, no conflicts of use or interest exist in the Road Canyon WSA. Wilderness values outweigh the need for possible vegetation treatment on 700 acres that would slightly increase the livestock forage available in the WSA.

3. CRITERIA CONSIDERED IN DEVELOPING THE WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATION

Wilderness Characteristics

A. Naturalness

Naturalness is defined as an attribute in which the evidence of man is substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor and where minor imprints of man exhibit no cumulative impact that is substantially noticeable. All of the WSA meets the wilderness standard for naturalness. The naturalness of the area is characterized by various landforms including steep-walled canyons, towering pinnacles, and gently-sloping plateaus.

Several minor imprints of human activities are adjacent to the boundaries of the WSA. Except for a corral and two stock trails, all of the imprints resulted from energy minerals exploration and livestock management prior to the passage of the FLPMA. Imprints affect less than 1 percent of the WSA.

Thirteen livestock reservoirs inside the WSA are all near the boundaries. Most of the reservoirs are more than 20 years old and are substantially revegetated. Few of the dams are more than 6 feet high or more than 30 feet long and reservoir areas are less than 0.25 of an acre. A post-FLPMA log corral was constructed in December 1976 adjacent to the Cigarette Springs road along the boundary of the WSA, affecting a 0.25 of an acre. Fencing at various points along the periphery of the WSA totals about 6 miles. Seven miles of way were constructed on a plateau between Lime Creek and the West Fork of Lime Creek, but the way has revegetated and is substantially unnoticeable. Seismic trails follow the Cigarette Springs boundary road and extend 1 mile into the WSA from Brushy Flat, but are not readily visible because of dense pinyon screening. An

abandoned drill hole just north of Snow Flat, adjacent to the northern boundary, is substantially revegetated.

B. Solitude

More than 87 percent (45,720 acres) of the WSA has outstanding opportunities for solitude. The remaining 13 percent (6,700 acres) do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Rolling plateaus and deep, winding canyons are screened by dense pinyon and juniper woodland and riparian vegetation and provide seclusion throughout most of the WSA. Vistas from cliffs along the plateaus are of a substantially natural area which provides exceptional solitude because of its vastness. Although the southern boundary road can be seen from high points within the WSA, the distance from the road seems great enough to maintain a feeling of isolation.

From viewpoints within the southern part of the WSA, activity on roads in the Valley of the Gods intrude upon solitude. Both the Valley of the Gods and lower Road Canyon are predominantly not screened, so that sights and sounds of human activity affect adjacent parts of the WSA.

C. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Forty-four percent of the WSA (23,220 acres) in the northern and eastern portions, including Road and Barton Range Canyons, meet the criteria for outstanding primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities. The southwestern portion of the WSA, 56 percent (29,200 acres), including Lime Creek, does not meet the outstanding recreation criteria because the irregular configuration limits the unconfined nature of the primitive experience.

The extensive canyon and plateau systems offer excellent opportunities for desert hiking and exploration. Rolling plateaus, winding canyons, talus slopes, knobs, buttes, pinnacles, alcoves and other features capture the attention of dayhikers, climbers, and horseback riders. Outstanding opportunities for photography and scientific and educational studies also exist in the WSA.

ROAD CANYON WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

The Cigarette Springs boundary road, which is excluded from the WSA, dissects the unit on the west side and reduces the area having potential for primitive and unconfined recreation; however, the road provides access into the WSA. Part of the southern boundary road that encircles Castle Butte restricts unconfined recreation, and the open character of the Valley of the Gods adjacent to the road inhibits primitive recreation. The effects of the Valley of the Gods road reduces Lime Creek, the West Fork of Lime Creek, and other drainages to the south into short segments of a few miles each. This irregular configuration reduces the opportunities for an unconfined, primitive recreation experience in this portion of the WSA. The mesa between Road and Lime Creeks also has an irregular configuration due to the cherry-stemmed Cigarette Springs road and State sections, which limits unconfined recreation experiences.

D. Special Features

Scenic and geological special values include the deep canyons, sheer cliffs, and dramatic views from the canyon rims. A portion of Valley of the Gods within the WSA includes monolithic sandstone buttes that rise 400 to 500 feet above the valley floor.

Approximately 56 percent (29,355 acres) of the WSA is rated as outstanding for scenic quality.

Road Canyon WSA contains a variety of topographic features, including unique erosional forms of sandstone, towering pinnacles, steep-walled canyons, and gently sloping plateaus. This WSA incorporates four canyon systems that are typical of the Cedar Mesa area.

A high density of cultural resources (112 recorded and 8,142 potential sites) from both the Basketmaker and Pueblo stages of the Anasazi culture are present in the WSA.

The Hole-in-the-Rock Trail, a National Register site, forms the unit's northeast boundary.

Peregrine falcons and bald eagles, listed as endangered species, may inhabit or use the WSA.

Seven other animal species and three plant species that are considered sensitive may occur in the WSA.

Refer to Appendix 4 and the Affected Environment, Vegetation and Wildlife Including Special Status Species sections of the Utah BLM Statewide Wilderness Final EIS for additional information.

Diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS)

A. Expanding the Diversity of Natural Systems and Features as Represented by Ecosystems

Wilderness designation of this WSA would add a combination of potential natural vegetation (PNV) ecosystems not presently represented in the NWPS. PNV is the vegetative type that would eventually become climax vegetation if not altered by human interference, and is not necessarily the vegetation that is currently present in an area.

The WSA is in the Colorado Plateau Province/Ecoregion. The PNV in the WSA is blackbrush (16,420 acres) and juniper-pinyon woodland (36,000 acres). The juniper-pinyon woodland PNV is represented in 10 areas in the NWPS nationally and in one wilderness in Utah, but blackbrush PNV is not represented in the NWPS. This information is summarized in Table 2 from data compiled in December 1989.

B. Assessing the Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive Recreation within a days Driving Time (5 Hours) of Major Population Centers

The WSA is not within a 5-hour drive of any population centers.

C. Balancing the Geographic Distribution of Wilderness Areas

The Road Canyon WSA would not contribute significantly to balancing the geographic distribution of wilderness areas within the NWPS.

ROAD CANYON WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

TABLE 2
ECOSYSTEM REPRESENTATION

BAILEY-KUCHLER CLASSIFICATION (PNV)	NWPS AREAS		OTHER BLM STUDIES	
	AREAS	ACRES	AREAS	ACRES
NATIONWIDE (COLORADO PLATEAU PROVINCE)				
Blackbrush	0	0	11	213,644
Juniper-Pinyon Woodland	11	1,401,745	84	2,108,005
UTAH (COLORADO PLATEAU PROVINCE)				
Blackbrush	0	0	11	213,644
Juniper-Pinyon Woodland	1	26,000	53	1,670,198

Source: BLM File Data.

As of January 1987, the NWPS included 117 areas comprising 6,988,052 acres in Utah and in Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico, the adjacent states nearest the WSA.

A Road Canyon Wilderness would supplement the NWPS in the Canyonlands Section of the Colorado Plateau, however, where there are just two established wilderness areas, totaling 70,751 acres.

There are four designated wilderness areas within 100 miles of the WSA. To the north is the 45,000-acre Dark Canyon Wilderness (U.S. Forest Service [FS]), to the east is the 8,100-acre Mesa Verde Wilderness (National Park Service [NPS]), to the southwest is the 112,400-acre Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness (BLM) and to the northwest is the 25,751-acre Box-Death Hollow Wilderness (FS).

Manageability (The area must be capable of being effectively managed to preserve its wilderness character.)

The WSA could be managed as wilderness. There are eight existing mining claims covering approximately 160 acres. Development work, extraction, and patenting would be allowed subject to unnecessary and undue degradation guidelines with consideration given to wilderness values; however, there is little or no potential for locatable minerals in the WSA. Based on this information, explo-

ration or development is not projected following designation.

There is one existing post-FLPMA oil and gas lease covering 40 acres in the WSA. Because of depressed oil prices, the low certainty of occurrence of oil and gas in the WSA, and wilderness protection requirements, no exploration or development of these leases is anticipated prior to or following wilderness designation.

There are three State sections (1,920 acres) in the WSA. Major developments on these sections and related access and activity would reduce the quality of wilderness values but the potential for development is low.

Domestic livestock grazing would continue as presently authorized and allotted. The use and maintenance of 6 miles of fence, two stock trails, 13 reservoirs, and one corral would continue in the same manner as in the past based on practical necessity and reasonableness.

About 14 miles of unpaved roads and jeep trails forming a portion of the WSA boundary would remain open to vehicular travel. Approximately 10 miles of cherry-stemmed roads in the WSA would also remain open to vehicular travel. ORV use along these roads will be administratively difficult to control following designation because of the flat terrain along the roads.

ROAD CANYON WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

Energy and Mineral Resource Values

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the U.S. Bureau of Mines (USBM) prepared a mineral assessment report for the Road Canyon WSA (USGS Bulletin 1755-B, Dana J. Bove, et al., 1989). The report indicated that no mineral resources were identified during field examination in the WSA except for common-variety sand and gravel and there is no history of mineral production.

The potential for undiscovered coal, geothermal resources, and metals, including uranium and thorium, is low. Inferred subeconomic resources of sandstone, sand, and gravel have no unique qualities, but could be used locally for road surfaces and construction purposes on a limited basis. Similar materials are abundant outside the study area.

Oil and gas have been produced in the adjacent Paradox Basin from strata that are known to occur beneath the WSA. The WSA is therefore assessed as having moderate oil and gas potential on the basis of regional geology and the occurrence of possible hydrocarbon-bearing rocks underlying the study area.

No indication of geothermal sources were seen or have been reported in or near the WSA. No known coal-bearing formations are present in or beneath the study area.

The geologic environment in the WSA is unfavorable for metallic mineral resources. Mineralized rock was not identified at the surface during field studies or by remote sensing, and there were no significant anomalous values in the geochemical data collected during field investigations.

Impacts on Resources

The comparative impact table (Table 3) summarizes the effects on pertinent resources for alternatives considered including designation or nondesignation of the area as wilderness.

Local Social and Economic Considerations

Social and economic factors were not considered to be significant issues in the EIS.

Summary of WSA-Specific Comments

Public involvement has occurred throughout the wilderness review process. Comments received during the early stages of the EIS preparation were used to develop significant study issues and alternatives for the ultimate management of the WSA.

During formal public review of the Draft EIS, a total of 112 inputs specifically addressing this WSA were received from 1,145 commenters, including oral statements received at 17 public hearings on the EIS. Each letter or oral testimony was considered to be one input. Duplicate letters or oral statements by the same commenter were not counted as additional inputs or signatures. Each individual was credited with one signature or testimony regardless of the number of inputs.

In general, 322 commenters supported wilderness designation for part or all of the WSA, while 816 commenters were opposed. Seven commenters addressed the relative merits of the EIS but took no formal position on wilderness designation.

Those favoring wilderness commented on the special features in the WSA, opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, and the naturalness of the area. The majority of those commenting were from outside of Utah. Of particular concern was the need to protect wilderness values in the WSA.

Those opposing wilderness were concerned that wilderness would harm State and local economies, restrict general public access in favor of a few special interest groups, conflict with the use of adjacent non-Federal lands, and prohibit mineral exploration. Many believed that the WSA lacks naturalness and outstanding solitude. Most of those opposed to wilderness designation were from rural Utah.

One Federal agency, the USBM, commented on the Draft EIS for this WSA. The USBM took no position regarding designation of the WSA but commented that BLM underrated the petroleum potential of the WSA.

ROAD CANYON WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

No comment letters were received on the Final EIS.

There are three State sections (1,920 acres) in the WSA. In commenting on the Draft EIS, the State of Utah expressed general opposition to wilderness designation but did not take a definite position regarding designation of the WSA. The State commented that the Road Canyon WSA has high wilderness values and moderate conflicts. The State recommended a more workable alternative would be to restrict the WSA boundary to the canyon rims and allow the mesa tops to be utilized for other practices such as increased and improved forage production for livestock and wildlife. The State added that an administrative designation such as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), may be more appropriate for the WSA than wilderness designation.

The Road Canyon WSA is in San Juan County. The San Juan County Master Plan emphasizes multiple use of public lands and zones the WSA as open range and forest land. The San Juan County Commission is opposed to wilderness designation for the Road Canyon WSA and has endorsed the Consolidated Local Government Response to Wilderness that opposes wilderness designation of BLM lands in Utah. In commenting on the Draft EIS the Commission noted that designation of the WSA as wilderness would be in conflict with the County Master Plan and that the area is penetrated by too many roads to classify it as roadless. The Commission also pointed out that State in-holdings would conflict with wilderness management and that the WSA is geologically and ecologically identical to other areas already protected in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, National Parks, National Monuments and FS wilderness within the Colorado Plateau and in San Juan County.

ROAD CANYON WSA

Table 3
Comparative Summary of Impacts by Alternatives^a

Issue Topic	Alternatives		
	Recommendation All Wilderness (52,420 Acres)	No Action/No Wilderness	Large Partial Wilderness (45,720 Acres)
Impacts on Wilderness Values	Wilderness designation would preserve wilderness values where found throughout the entire WSA.	Wilderness values would not be protected by wilderness management and loss would occur as intrusions increase. In the foreseeable future, naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be directly lost due to disturbance on about 721 acres and would be occasionally and indirectly reduced in quality on up to 2,100 acres. The loss would result from oil and gas exploration, vegetation treatment, and rangeland projects. Special features would not be significantly affected. Vehicular use would detract from opportunities from solitude and primitive recreation on as much as 5,240 acres of the WSA.	Wilderness values would be preserved in the designated area which is approximately 87 percent of the WSA. No disturbance that would result in loss of wilderness values is anticipated in the foreseeable future.
			Small Partial Wilderness (23,220 Acres)
			Wilderness values would be preserved in the designated area which is approximately 44 percent of the WSA. In the foreseeable future, naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be directly lost on about 711 acres and would be indirectly reduced in quality on up to 7,340 acres of the WSA. All of the impact would be in the non-designated area. No significant loss of special features is anticipated.

ROAD CANYON WSA

Table 3 (continued)
Comparative Summary of Impacts by Alternative

Issue Topic	Alternatives		
	Recommendation All Wilderness (52,420 Acres)	No Action/No Wilderness	Large Partial Wilderness (45,720 Acres)
Impacts on Vegetation	Vegetation types would be preserved and endangered, threatened, and other special status species would receive additional protection from disturbance.	Vegetation types would be altered on 1.4 percent (721 acres) of the WSA. Two U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service candidate and one sensitive plant species would not be affected because they do not grow in the pinyon-juniper woodland where the disturbances are projected to occur.	Vegetation types would be preserved and candidate endangered, threatened, and sensitive species would not be affected.
			Small Partial Wilderness (23,220 Acres)
			Vegetation types would be altered on 1 percent of the WSA. Two FWS candidate and one sensitive plant species would not be affected.

ROAD CANYON WSA

Table 3 (continued)
Comparative Summary of Impacts by Alternative

Issue Topic	Alternatives			
	Recommendation All Wilderness (52,420 Acres)	No Action/No Wilderness	Large Partial Wilderness (45,720 Acres)	Small Partial Wilderness (23,220 Acres)
Impacts on Mineral Exploration and Development	<p>The potential for oil and gas exploration would be foregone. There would not be a significant loss in production of any mineral or energy resources because there is a low probability of development even without wilderness designation.</p>	<p>Mineral exploration or production would not be adversely affected because mineral leasing, location of mining claims and mineral developments could occur without restrictions for protection of wilderness values. Oil and gas exploration would be limited to no surface occupancy on approximately 66 percent of the WSA. On approximately 33 percent of the area, oil and gas exploration and production would be permitted with special conditions for surface use to protect cultural resources, scenic values, and natural values associated with primitive recreation. Location of mining claims and mineral development would be permitted with an approved plan of operations.</p>	<p>The potential for oil and gas exploration would be foregone. There would not be a significant loss in production of any mineral or energy resources because there is a low probability of development even without wilderness designation.</p>	<p>Implementation would not significantly affect mineral exploration or production. Leasable Mineral exploration and production on 22 percent of the area would be subject to the no surface occupancy stipulation (Category 3). On approximately 33 percent of the area, oil and gas exploration and production would be permitted with special conditions for surface use to protect cultural resources, scenic values, and natural values associated with primitive recreation. Location of mining claims and mineral development would be permitted with an approved plan of development on 66 percent of the WSA.</p>

ROAD CANYON WSA

Table 3 (continued)
Comparative Summary of Impacts by Alternative

Issue Topic	Alternatives		
	Recommendation All Wilderness (52,420 Acres)	No Action/No Wilderness	Large Partial Wilderness (45,720 Acres)
Impacts on Wildlife Habitat and Populations	Wilderness designation would protect wildlife habitat from disturbance and maintain present wildlife populations through preservation of naturalness and solitude. Opportunities to provide vegetation diversity and additional forage that would benefit big game and certain nongame species would be precluded. Special status species would receive additional protection.	Vegetation treatment and oil and gas exploration would reduce some wildlife populations on 1.4 percent (721 acres) of the WSA during the lifetime of these projects. Implementation of the land treatment would eventually benefit wildlife diversity and increase population levels. No significant adverse impacts would occur to endangered, threatened, or sensitive species because these species inhabit riparian and cliff face areas that would not be disturbed. Ferruginous hawk habitat would be improved.	Partial wilderness designation would protect wildlife habitat from disturbance and maintain present wildlife populations including special status species through the preservation of naturalness and solitude on 87 percent of the WSA. Opportunities to provide vegetation diversity and additional forage that would benefit big game and certain nongame species would be precluded because the proposed vegetation treatment would be in the designation area and would not be allowed.
			Implementation of the land treatment would benefit wildlife diversity and population levels by providing additional forage and ecotones. Oil and gas exploration and vegetation treatment would reduce some wildlife populations on 1.4 percent (711 acres) of the WSA during the lifetime of the projects. Endangered, threatened, and sensitive species would receive additional protection on 44 percent of the WSA.
Impacts on Livestock Management	The potential for vegetation treatment and 170 additional AUMs of livestock forage would be foregone.	Livestock management would not be significantly affected because access, maintenance and development of rangeland improvements and livestock management practices would continue without restrictions for protection of wilderness values.	The potential for vegetation treatment and 170 additional AUMs of livestock forage would be foregone.
			Livestock management would not be significantly affected because access, maintenance and rangeland improvements would continue without wilderness restrictions on 66 percent of the WSA. Vegetation would be treated to provide 170 AUMs of forage.

ROAD CANYON WSA

Table 3 (continued)
Comparative Summary of Impacts by Alternative

Issue Topic	Alternatives		
	Recommendation All Wilderness (52,420 Acres)	No Action/No Wilderness	Large Partial Wilderness (45,720 Acres)
Impacts on Cultural Resources	<p>The benefits of protection of cultural resources including 112 known sites from most surface disturbance and all vehicular access would probably outweigh potential negative effects from increased vandalism due to increased future recreational use. Management of cultural resources may be restricted in scope and execution due to wilderness designation.</p>	<p>Some impact to cultural resources due to surface disturbance is expected under this alternative. Continued vehicular access may cause additional vandalism and intentional or unintentional damage to archaeological sites in portions of the WSA. Cultural resources would be managed for information potential, public values, and conservation. Measures that limit surface disturbance would reduce direct and indirect impacts to cultural resources. Cultural properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places would be surrounded by an avoidance area sufficient to allow permanent protection.</p>	<p>Cultural resources including 110 recorded sites would receive protection from wilderness designation on 87 percent of the WSA under this alternative. Sites in the nondesignated portion would continue to receive protection under existing laws.</p>
			<p>Cultural resources including 102 recorded sites would receive protection from wilderness designation on 44 percent of the WSA under this alternative. Sites in the nondesignated portion would continue to receive protection under existing laws and under the management prescriptions which limit surface disturbance in the Cedar Mesa ACEC.</p>

ROAD CANYON WSA

Table 3 (continued)
Comparative Summary of Impacts by Alternative

Issue Topic	Alternatives		
	Recommendation All Wilderness (52,420 Acres)	No Action/No Wilderness	Large Partial Wilderness (45,720 Acres)
Impacts on Recreation	<p>Opportunities for ORV use would be eliminated but opportunities for primitive recreation experience use would be preserved and enhanced. Loss of ORV opportunities would not be significant on a regional basis because there are adequate alternative areas available for ORV use. Primitive-type recreational use would continue to increase. Opportunities for commercial outfitting for primitive recreation would be enhanced.</p>	<p>Approximately 66 percent of the WSA would be closed to OHV use. Opportunities for OHV use would be maintained on designated roads and trails in approximately 33 percent of the WSA. Vehicular use on designated ways and trails and primitive use would continue to increase.</p>	<p>Opportunities for ORV use would be eliminated on 87 percent of the WSA while opportunities for primitive recreation use would be preserved. Loss of ORV opportunities would not be significant on a regional basis because there are adequate alternative areas available for ORV use. Primitive-type recreational use including commercial outfitting would continue to increase.</p>
			<p>Small Partial Wilderness (23,220 Acres)</p> <p>Opportunities for OHV use would be maintained on designated roads and trails in approximately 33 percent of the WSA, outside of the designated area. Approximately 22 percent of the WSA outside of the designated area would be closed to OHV use. This would maintain opportunities for primitive recreation in this portion of the WSA. Both primitive recreation and vehicular use would increase.</p>

^a The BLM San Juan RMP was approved following publication of the BLM Utah Statewide Wilderness EIS. The analysis of impacts summarized here has been modified to reflect the more restrictive management practices established by the RMP.

ROAD CANYON WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

Appendix
Estimated Costs of Acquisition of Non-Federal Holdings Within Areas Recommended for Designation a

Legal Description (Prior to any Subdivision)	Total Acreage	Number of Owners (If Parcel has been subdivided)	Type of Ownership by Estate (Federal, State, Private, Other) (Surface Estate) (Subsurface Estate)	Presently Proposed for Acquisition (Yes, No)	Preferred Method of Acquisition (Purchase, Exchange, Other)	Estimated Cost of Acquisition (Land Costs)	Estimated Cost of Acquisition (Processing Costs)
T. 39 S., R. 18 E., Sec. 36	640.00		State	No	Exchange		\$2,000
T. 39 S., R. 19 E., Sec. 36	640.00		State	No	Exchange		\$2,000
T. 39 S., R. 20 E., Sec. 32	640.00		State	No	Exchange		\$2,000

a The estimated costs listed in this appendix in no way represent a Federal appraised value of the land or mineral estate, but are rough estimates based on sales or exchanges of lands or mineral estates with similar characteristics to those included in the WSA. The estimates are for purposes of establishing a range of potential costs to the government of acquiring non-Federal holdings and in no way represent an offer to purchase or exchange at the cost estimate included in this appendix.